



"MOVING MISSOURI FORWARD"

State of the State Address

By

Governor Mel Carnahan

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Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President Pro Tem, distinguished state officials, members of the 87th General Assembly, and citizens of the State of Missouri, I appreciate this opportunity to speak to you today.

Only a few short weeks ago, we celebrated the holiday season — traditionally a time when families come together to strengthen their bonds and renew their commitment to one another.

Family has always been important in my life as I'm certain it has been in yours.

But we all tend to get so busy during the year that its not until the holidays that we have a chance to reflect and enjoy what's truly important in our lives.

So just as many of you did, my family and I gathered to share and appreciate the bounties which have blessed our lives. My wife Jean, my children, and I had a wonderful Christmas at our home in Rolla. It was filled with joy — most of which was provided courtesy of my three-year old grandson, Austin. He gave us the excitement



and wonder of the holidays which comes best by witnessing them through the eyes of a child.

Yet our holidays were also tinged with a bit of sorrow, because this was our first holiday dinner without Jean's father sitting with us at the dinner table.

For you see, until recently, it was not unusual for us to have four generations at the dinner table. We'll miss that.

But on the whole, I must admit we've been very fortunate as a family. We've never been rich, but we've always been comfortable. Jean and I each grew up in middle class homes, and we both had the support and guidance of two parents. And we're grateful that we've been able to give our children the same kind of upbringing. We've enjoyed good health — and good health care when we needed it — and we were able to offer our children good educations. We've had our share of opportunities. And now, of course, I'm embarking on the greatest opportunity — and the greatest challenge — of my life.

But even with all this, these past holidays had a particularly special meaning to me. Just a few weeks earlier, I had been elected governor of this great state. And this event gave me a whole new perspective on family — just as these annual holiday celebrations served to remind me of the true meaning of the responsibilities I have now assumed.

We've heard the term "family values" invoked frequently over the past few years — usually by people who've had all the opportunities and advantages life has to offer. Perhaps in a perfect world, every family would have two parents and good educational opportunities for their children. Every family would have at least one good job with decent wages ... wages high enough to raise a family. Every family would be secure and drug-free and no one — no man, woman, or child — would ever suffer the hardships and indignities of abuse, of unemployment, or of disability. But this is not a perfect world. And government must be prepared to help out even when the people we're serving aren't easily compared to Ozzie and Harriet. We must take Missouri and Missouri's families as we find them — in whatever configuration — and help them along when we can. That, more than anything else, is our job as public officials.

This capitol, this podium, those seats — they belong to all Missourians. And they share in them equally.

They belong to the single mother struggling to make ends meet so she can take proper care of her infant son.

They belong to the elderly man living in fear of the crime and violence which lies just outside his door.



They belong to the child sitting in an overcrowded classroom having to share a textbook with others because there aren't enough to go around.

And they belong to the young unemployed father searching for a job for months. A job that's not there — and his dream of a home for his family and a college education for his children is rapidly fading.

All Missourians are stockholders in our government. I am submitting to you today a budget which will help move Missouri and Missouri's families forward. A budget which recognizes the imperfections in this world, and helps real people move a little closer to their dreams.

I'm told that expectations of this budget are high. I suppose that is natural — change has been 12 years in the making and the optimism that often accompanies new beginnings can be easily sensed. But Missouri still faces a very difficult financial situation. New revenue growth has been almost entirely eaten away by expanding mandates. And, of course, the economic recovery has not been nearly as strong as we had expected. In fact, revenue estimates for this year and next were recently cut back substantially because the nation's economy and Missouri's economy continue to under-perform previous expectations. Missouri still faces lean times. While

we were able to expand some important programs modestly, the only way to do this was to make over \$58 million dollars in core cuts from other programs. We had some very tough choices to make in this budget.

EDUCATION

Throughout my campaign for governor, I said that if we don't improve our schools, then Missouri doesn't have a future worth having. And two days ago, I stood on the steps of the capitol and said that I would make improving our schools the highest priority of my administration. Later that day, in my first official act as governor, I met in the governor's office with a group of outstanding 5th and 6th graders from all across Missouri and made the same pledge to them. And I'm not about to let them down.

I have proposed the most comprehensive school reform plan ever offered in Missouri.

The heart of my plan is a new compact between schools and taxpayers: the state will provide the resources needed to improve educational outcomes, but in return, schools and teachers will be held accountable for results.

Among other things, my plan will reduce class size; strengthen curriculum and emphasize the basics including computer skills.



It will fully fund the successful Parents as Teachers program and it will establish new mechanisms for increasing school and teacher accountability;

It will attack the drop out rate by providing new training and career opportunities for non-college bound students.

My plan will upgrade vocational and technical education opportunities.

And it will enhance teacher training opportunities so teachers can improve their teaching skills and keep current with rapidly changing technologies and information.

Missouri's leaders have talked about education reform long enough. Now it's time to do something about it. I'm counting on you to help me get this job done.

The first step to adopting an education reform plan is to fix the foundation formula. We must develop a fair way to allocate the state's funds to Missouri schools. I challenge this legislature to get this job done now, because if the people in these chambers don't fix the formula, a court will.

And then let's get on with passing my comprehensive reform and funding package to create World Class Schools.

But the problems in education can't wait until after we pass a fair foundation formula and an

education reform package. We've got to get started now.

This budget will help Missouri move forward in education. For the first time the Governor's budget will allocate all the lottery money to education. The voter's demanded it and it's the right thing to do.

An estimated 30% of our school children are at-risk of academic failure. I am proposing new funds to reach those at-risk children. These funds will be used to extend drop-out prevention programs, to give teachers special skills in working with at-risk children, to employ guidance counselors for at-risk youth, and to expand pre-school programs for at-risk children.

I have called for doubling the funds for excellence research that helps educators develop programs to improve students' academic achievement.

I am recommending funds to upgrade community college programs in manufacturing technology and health care occupations, and to increase funding for the new campuses at St. Charles and Springfield.

I am proposing increased funding for the Incentives Program which awards competitive grants to teachers, schools and districts for innovative plans to improve student achievement through computer literacy, hands-on science



instruction, improved career awareness, and increased parental involvement in the education of their children.

I also propose increasing career ladder training opportunities for teachers to give them a professional career track based on accomplishment and tied to salary incentives.

I've proposed full funding of the academic scholarship program known as Bright Flight to encourage top Missouri high school students to enroll in Missouri colleges and universities.

I am recommending that higher education institutions be partially funded based on their performance — performance measured by total degree completions, degree completions for African-American students, and degree completions in vital fields including math, health, physical science, and foreign language.

Elementary, secondary, and higher education in Missouri must take advantage of recent developments in computer networking technologies. I am recommending funds for planning and partial implementation of computer networking for grades K through 12. In addition, I'm recommending funds to accelerate the process of integrating networking technology into the libraries of our public 4 year colleges and universities.

JOBS

The foundation for keeping families together is to provide high quality jobs so that Missouri's young people do not have to leave Missouri to find work. For that reason, I have proposed a comprehensive job creation and economic development strategy — called JOBS 2000. My strategy invests in Missouri workers by expanding training opportunities. It helps Missouri's small businesses grow and reach new markets. It encourages research and development that will lead to jobs here in Missouri. It increases access to capital. It encourages commercial innovation. And it helps develop businesses that will use Missouri-grown commodities and Missouri-made products.

I am calling on this body to pass the legislation we need to adopt my JOBS 2000 proposals. But I'm also going to get started on creating jobs right now through initiatives in this budget. It's astonishing to me that Missouri doesn't even have a written comprehensive economic development plan to guide it's long-term economic development efforts. This shocking neglect of basic, fundamental planning cannot be tolerated any longer. That's why my budget provides funds to create Missouri's first comprehensive economic development plan that will set forth specific goals and guide our efforts to attain them.

My budget also includes funds for an additional small business incubator that will help viable new start-up companies get a foot-hold in the market place and create new jobs.

I am recommending funds to put Missouri's Self-Referral Job Service Computer System on-line so job seekers can self-register their job skills and get help in finding available jobs that use their skills and knowledge.

I've called for increased funding for rural development and promotion of rural tourism, and for expansion of Missouri's export development efforts so we can help more Missouri companies reach new markets.

I am recommending increased funding for the Rapid Response Program which helps laid-off employees get the training they need to get back on their feet.

And I've proposed increased funding to enhance employment and economic opportunities for female- and minority-owned businesses and workers.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

One of the greatest legacies we can leave our children is a clean, safe, and healthful environment. This budget furthers the state's natural resource goals through a comprehensive



environmental agenda that will improve air, soil and water quality.

I am proposing significant new funds to protect our streams, lakes and water supply — as well as assure proper management and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes. I also call for more funding to implement Missouri's Clean Air Act compliance program. This will help reduce acid rain and toxic air pollution. New funds are also provided to increase state energy efficiency and expand our use of alternative fuels.

HEALTH CARE

Affordable health care is one of the greatest concerns of Missouri's families. Therefore, I'm proposing critical new investments in preventive health programs and I'm targeting crucial services to children and women including expanded mammography screening, lead screening, general health screening for children under the Healthy Children and Youth program, and newborn screening to prevent and detect disease.

My budget expands our fight against communicable diseases. In FY94, under my budget, the Department of Health will distribute more than 758,000 doses of vaccine to immunize children against childhood diseases. The budget also increases funding for immunization against hepatitis B and vaccinations to protect the elderly and chronically ill against influenza.

Furthermore, my budget funds the development of an Immunization Action Plan that will enable us to increase by 10% the number of children who complete all basic immunizations by age two.

And this budget recognizes that this is not the time to slow-down in our fight against the deadly AIDS virus. Instead, I am recommending that we raise funding 15% to help win this battle. I am recommending significant new funds including expansion of the HIV drug treatment program and AIDS prevention programs.

I've recommended increased funding for Missouri's Women, Infants, and Children program which has been so successful in preventing developmental problems. And I'm calling for a major expansion of community-based outpatient efforts to treat alcohol and drug affected babies.

And two initiatives which I'm particularly proud of:

First, I am proposing a major expansion of the Caring Communities program, an innovative approach to helping families with children who are at risk of educational under-achievement, drug- and crime-related problems, and removal from their families. This program has had great success keeping children in school and improving their educational performance, keeping them



safely at home with their families, and keeping them out of trouble with the law.

And for the first time ever, Missouri will put general revenue into family planning services beyond what's needed to obtain federal matching funds. This expansion of family planning will improve the health of Missouri's women and children and reduce unplanned pregnancies that contribute to inadequate prenatal care, low birth weight babies and infant mortality.

GOVERNMENT REFORM

It's been 20 years since we've taken a comprehensive look at government operations from the bottom - up and tried to make them more efficient. Therefore, I am calling for creation of a Productivity Review Commission comprised of experts from both government and the private sector to examine operations and make detailed recommendations for making state government more productive and cost effective. Only through management and productivity improvements will we be able to control growth in the state workforce in the face of increasing demands for services.

We must also continue government reforms already under way. Major productivity improvements will be achieved through the development of automation initiatives in the Department of Social Services. A consolidated



statewide child support collection and enforcement system will significantly improve administration and eliminate duplication of work. Also an integrated client eligibility system for income maintenance programs will enhance the quality of service to clients and make major efficiency improvements in staff operations.

OTHER INITIATIVES

These are just some of the budget highlights. Many other crucial issues are also addressed: I have called for increased funding for programs that help senior citizens including in-home alternatives to nursing homes. I have proposed funding to open the new 200-bed St. Louis Veterans Home. I have recommended significant new funding for the war against crime including additional funds for electronic jails and communications equipment for the Highway Patrol. This budget also includes first-time general revenue to help victims of domestic violence.

I have proposed a major expansion of the highly successful FUTURES welfare reform program that helps welfare recipients get off welfare rolls and onto payrolls. I've called for significant new funds to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act and to create two new independent living centers for the developmentally disabled.

And also included in this budget is a modest pay plan for state employees. Most state employees have not had a pay increase for 3 years. On average, this proposed pay plan would raise salaries by about 3 percent with most of the funds going to those employees making the lowest wages. This will only partially cover increases in housing, food and other cost of living factors that have occurred over the last three years. The cost for this pay plan will be partially paid for by a reduction in state personnel through attrition and vacancies. We cannot expect our employees to continue to perform their services effectively if we do not even help them keep pace with the cost-of-living.

Desegregation cases in Kansas City and St. Louis have cost Missouri taxpayers about \$1.7 billion dollars since 1981. It's time to move forward and bring these costly and prolonged actions to a conclusion. While the Attorney General carries out his duty to vigorously defend the state, I will request him to propose a process to the federal courts that will bring these cases to an end. This process may include the appointment of a neutral party to meet with the parties and attempt to reach a resolution that will allow the state and its school districts to meet their constitutional obligations without court supervision.

The holiday season has ended and now we begin a new year. I have always found the new

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year to be a time of great anticipation. To me, it seems to suggest the approach of great new opportunities and possibilities — of new beginnings and expectations for the future.

It's time to move Missouri forward and I believe we can do it. We can do it by working together. Certainly we may have disagreements, but we must never allow those differences to keep us from our common goal of helping families achieve their dreams.

Success will not be easy. Our work will test our minds and our spirit. But we must accept the challenge. Missouri is tired of standing still — exhausted from years of gridlock and lack of confidence. It's now our responsibility to break the gridlock, rebuild that confidence, and move Missouri forward.

Thank you.

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